

Application No. 09/997,582
Amendment dated October 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 11, 2003
Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 3, line 25 and ends on page 4, line 4 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

However, reducing heat transfer by solid conduction in these ways is limited. One limitation is that reducing the density of an insulating material also reduces its mechanical strength. Oftentimes, the insulating material, in addition to providing thermal insulation, is required to contribute mechanical strength and stability to an insulated barrier. Thus, the reduction in mechanical strength limits the extent to which the density may be reduced. A limitation for materials that reduce solid conduction by the tortuous path method, such as aerogels, is that suitable materials for use in thermal insulation systems were not known until applicants' invention of ~~United States Patent Application Nos. 09/809,793 published PCT Patent Applications WO 01/77214 and 09/972,163 WO 02/074842~~, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 16, line 28 and ends on page 16, line 32 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

The core material used in the insulated barrier of the present invention supports the rigid walls and is formed in situ within the barrier walls. Methods for forming core materials in situ are disclosed in ~~United States Patent Application Nos. 09/809,793 published PCT Patent Applications WO 01/77214 and 09/972,163 WO 02/074842~~.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 17, line 14 and ends on page 17, line 22 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Suitable core materials include, but are not limited to, open cell polystyrene, open cell polyurethane and open cell foams. More preferably, the core material comprises small pore area materials, even more preferably, low density microcellular materials, and yet even more preferably, aerogels, which are described in ~~United States Patent Application Nos. 09/809,793 published PCT Patent Applications WO 01/77214 and 09/972,163 WO 02/074842~~. Most preferably, the core material is a monolithic aerogel.

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Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 32, line 26 and ends on page 33, line 8 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

The container described above was provided with a port located on the bottom outside surface as indicated by Fig. 3, wall segment 312e. The core material was formed within the walls of the container in accordance with ~~United States Patent Application Nos. 09/809,793 published PCT Patent Applications WO 01/77214 and 09/972,163 WO 02/074842~~. Precursor chemicals for the core material were poured into the barrier walls of the container and allowed to cure. Holes were drilled at the top flange of the container as indicated by Fig. 3, surfaces 316, 318, 320 and 322, to allow for drying of the cured precursor materials and formation of the core material within the barrier walls. The holes were then plastic welded closed and the container was evacuated through the port, such that the interior space of the barrier walls was maintained under a pressure of approximately 100 mTorr.